

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY:AF/E:RWBAKER  
APPROVED BY:AF:WCHARROP  
AF/E:RPOST  
S/S-O:TGMARTIN

-----037634 130633Z /21/10

R 130114Z JUN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
INFO HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

S E C R E T STATE 149322

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE 3 PARA 2 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SO, US

SUBJECT: SOMALI MESSAGE RE SOMALI TROOP PRESENCE IN OGADEN

1. SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU CALLED AT DEPARTMENT JUNE 9 AT HIS REQUEST TO DELIVER RESPONSE FROM HIS GOVERNMENT TO RECENT EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN BY USG OFFICIALS (INCLUDING ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AND UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM) OVER POSSIBLE SOMALI INVOLVEMENT IN THE OGADEN. HE WAS RECEIVED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARROP.

2. ADDOU HANDED HARROP FOLLOWING ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF MESSAGE HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED FROM MOGADISCIO: QUOTE (FULL TEXT) YOU MUST REFUTE THE BASELESS NEWS THAT SOMALIA HAS SENT BACK REGULAR TROOPS TO FIGHT IN OGADENIA.

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THIS HATEFUL LIE IS BEING FABRICATED BY THE RUSSIANS, THE ETHIOPIANS AND THEIR ALLIES, WITH KENYA BEING USED AS PROPAGANDA PLATFORM WHERE MANY WESTERN NEWS MEDIA REPORTERS OPERATE. THE OBVIOUS REASON BEHIND THIS IS TO CONFUSE OUR FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. ACCORDINGLY, YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO INFORM THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES. FOREIGN MOG.

END QUOTE.

3. HARROP SAID GSDR MESSAGE WAS REASSURING. HE CONFIRMED THAT USG IS CONCERNED OVER AND IS FOLLOWING OGADEN SITUATION. HE STATED THAT, BEING A LARGE COUNTRY, U.S. HAS A LARGE INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING CAPABILITY. WE DO GET REPORTS REGARDING THE OGADEN. WE HAVE TOLD SIAD EVER SINCE THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI TROOPS FROM THE OGADEN THAT RENEWED SOMALI INVOLVEMENT WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO PROCEED TO ESTABLISH THE KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WE WANT WITH SOMALIA. CONGRESS WOULD NOT AGREE TO SUCH A RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMALIA UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THE KINDRED FEELING FELT BY SOMALIS FOR THE OGADENIS, AND THAT THE SITUATION OF THE OGADENIS IS PAINFUL FOR SOMALIA, THE SENDING OF MILITARY SUPPLIES TO THE INSURGENTS WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS; EVEN THE VOCAL STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS EMANATING FROM MOGADISCIO CREATE PROBLEMS. FINALLY, HE NOTED THAT CRITICS OF SOMALIA IN THE U.S. POINT OUT THAT LAST YEAR THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT CLAIMED UNTIL ALMOST THE VERY END OF THE YEAR THAT IT HAD NO REGULAR TROOPS IN THE OGADEN, WHEN IN FACT REGULAR SOMALI TROOPS WERE IN THE OGADEN AND WE KNEW IT. SO, HE CONCLUDED, THIS IS A DIFFICULT SITUATION FOR US AND WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE THE SOMALI REASSURANCE.

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4. AMBASSADOR ADDOU RESPONDED THAT THE SOVIETS CONCOCT THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION. THEY SPREAD THE TYPE OF STORIES REACHING THE USG OUTSIDE OF SOMALIA, WHILE WITHIN SOMALIA THEY TELL THE PEOPLE THAT THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT HAS ABANDONED THE OGADENIS. HE ADDED THAT THE CONFLICT IS STILL FRESH FOR THE SOMALI PEOPLE; THE GOVERNMENT CAN MOVE AWAY FROM IT ONLY GRADUALLY. SOMALIA MUST CONTINUE TO ACCOMMODATE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT AND THE OTHER FRONTS, JUST AS SOMALIA ALLOWS OFFICES OF THE ERITREANS AND ALL AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. SOMALI RADIO DOES REPEAT THE FRONTS' STATEMENTS, HE ASSERTED, BUT IN SO DOING ALWAYS IS CAREFUL TO ATTRIBUTE THE STORIES TO THE FRONTS BECAUSE SOMALIA CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCURACY OF THEIR CLAIMS. VIRTUALLY EVERY SOMALI HAS A CONNECTION WITH THE OGADENIS, AND THE EMOTIONAL FEELING IS VERY STRONG. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, IT WOULD NOT MAKE SENSE FOR SOMALIA TO SEND ITS FORCES INTO THE OGADEN, WHICH WOULD GO AGAINST ITS PROMISES TO THE U.S. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE USG SHOULD USE ITS INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY, AND SHOULD COME TO THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT IF WE IDENTIFY ANY PROBLEMS.

5. HARROP ASKED ADDOU WHAT TREND HE SAW IN ETHIOPIA. ADDOU ASSERTED THAT THE CUBANS WOULD BE IN ETHIOPIA FOR A VERY LONG TIME. HE CHARACTERIZED MENGISTU AS COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON THE SOVIETS, AND SAID THERE IS NO WAY THE

ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT CAN CONTROL THE SITUATION, MUCH LESS DEFEAT THE INSURGENCIES, ON ITS OWN.

6. HARROP NOTED THAT THE ETHIOPIAN-DJIBOUTI RAILROAD WOULD BE OPENING SHORTLY, AND STATED IT WOULD BE VERY REGRETTABLE IF THE INSURGENTS WERE TO ATTACK THE RAILROAD ON WHICH DJIBOUTI'S ECONOMY DEPENDS SO GREATLY. ADDOU ASSERTED THAT THE RAILROAD WAS SO FAR FROM SOMALIA  
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THAT IT WOULD BE RIDICULOUS TO IMAGINE SOMALIA BEING INVOLVED IN ATTACKS ON THE RAILROAD. HE ADDED POINTEDLY THAT ONE OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF SOVEREIGNTY IS THE ABILITY TO CONTROL ONE'S TERRITORY.

7. COMMENTS: ALTHOUGH THE SOMALI MESSAGE REFERRED ONLY TO REPORTS OF SOMALI TROOP PRESENCE IN THE OGADEN AND NOT TO MATERIAL SUPPLY, IT APPEARS THAT THIS WAS IN RESPONSE TO RECENT PRESS REPORTS OF REINFILTRATION OF TROOPS AND WAS NOT INTENDED AS A STEP BACK FROM PREVIOUS SOMALI DENIALS OF MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR THE INSURGENTS. HARROP IN ANY EVENT MADE CLEAR TO ADDOU THAT USG EXPECTATIONS ARE NOT LIMITED TO SOMALI TROOP PRESENCE BUT INCLUDE MATERIAL SUPPORT AS WELL.

8. HARROP'S REFERENCE TO THE PROBLEM OF THE DJIBOUTI RAILROAD WAS DESIGNED TO REINFORCE A MORE DIRECT PRESENTATION ON THIS SUBJECT BY ANOTHER USG OFFICIAL IN AN EARLIER MEETING WITH ADDOU THE SAME DAY. ALTHOUGH ADDOU'S COMEBACK WAS SOMEWHAT FLIP, THERE WAS LITTLE QUESTION THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE UNDERLYING POINT. HOW STRONGLY HE MAY REPORT IT TO MOGADISCIO IS LESS CLEAR. END COMMENTS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MASS, PDIP, PBOR, SO, US, ET, KE  
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